**Young Scholars Academy Positive Guidance and Discipline General Policy**

It is the goal of Young Scholars to help children become happy, responsible, cooperative participants through positive, non-threatening teaching techniques. The goal of using positive guidance techniques is to help children develop safe and appropriate ways of interacting with others and with the environment.

One of the goals of discipline is to help children develop tools to problem solve. Discipline is the external tool to help children develop internal control. Young children learn by experimenting, testing limits and experiencing the consequences of their behavior.

In the process of setting and enforcing limits, our teachers assist the children in developing self-control and respect for the rights and property of others. Children need to learn the rules of getting along in a group, and adults need to balance the need for individual rights and self-expression with the needs of the group. Rules and limits in a school setting are likely to differ from those in a child’s home because of the need to protect the rights and safety of other children.

Our staff is trained to help the child, by words and examples, to help them realize that the following actions are not desirable behavior:

- hitting or harming other children or adults
- teasing or name calling
- leaving the group without accompaniment by a staff person or parent

Children are not expected to immediately understand or immediately fully comply with all the rules. Rather, they are reminded and redirected.

Guidance and discipline techniques that will be used with the children include:

- setting clear and enforceable limits
- modeling acceptable behavior
- recognizing each child’s individual needs
- structuring the environment and schedules to maximize good behavior
- recognizing the children’s efforts
- anticipating and eliminating potential problems
- redirection
- good timing of teacher intervention
- planning the daily schedule in such a manner as to allow the children a successful mixture of choice and structure
- use of natural and logical consequences

Children may be invited to work independently for a short time in order to regain self control, and in those cases the child has an open invitation from the teacher to return to the group when he feels ready. Any time a child is separation from the group he/she will always be within sight and hearing of the staff, and the length of time will be related to the child’s age and maturity.

It is policy of Young Scholars that teachers will record disciplinary actions and that these actions can be reviewed with a parent at any time.

For more information regarding this subject, check the resource library.